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LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, the English translation of a note verbale dated 25 January 2000 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD-HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-30330 (E) 170200

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Annex

Note verbale dated 25 January 2000 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and has the honour to state the following.

According to the reports submitted by the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

1. On 11 December 1999, at 1300 hours, the terrorist organization of Mojahedin Khalq (harboured by the Government of Iraq and intended to engage in disruptive and sabotage acts against the Islamic Republic of Iran) launched 12 rounds of 82 mm mortar attacks towards one of the sentry border posts of the Islamic Republic of Iran located in the Dehloran district from around the GCs of 17500-98000 on the map of the Anbar river at the common border.

2. On 27 December 1999, at 0100 hours, nine blasts occurred around the GCs of 54000-20000 on the map of Ghasr-e shirin. Investigations revealed that the blasts were as a result of 120 mm mortar attacks launched across the border from Iraqi territory.

3. On 27 December 1999, from 0145 to 0200 hours, 24 rounds of 82 mm mortar attacks were fired from the Iraqi city of Mandali into Iranian territory, hitting the Mian Tang and Band Pirali areas and the vicinity of the town of Soomar.

4. Two operational teams, each consisting of three terrorist elements belonging to the MKO, who had been dispatched to the Soomar and Ghasr-e shirin regions from the Jelolaa operational base in Iraq with a view to committing sabotage acts, first fired, on 27 December 1999, at 0215 hours, eight rounds of 82 mm mortar shells in Soomar area, and then, on the same day, at 0230 hours, launched 12 rounds of 82 mm mortar shells in the Ghasr-e shirin area, Sarpol Zohab-Ghasr-e shirin access.

5. On 27 December 1999, the MKO terrorist group targeted the town of Ghasr-e shirin by firing nine rounds of 120 mm mortars.

While strongly protesting against the above-mentioned hostile operations, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran holds the Government of the Republic of Iraq responsible for the adverse consequences of such acts resulting from the provision of sanctuary to the terrorists of the MKO on Iraqi soil and the creation of favourable grounds for them to organize armed terrorist and sabotage activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran, thus flagrantly contravening the international norms and principles and the Charter of the United Nations.

This is to reiterate that the continuation of such intrusions will cause irreparable damage to bilateral relations. Therefore, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while respecting the territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and the principles of good-neighbourly relations, considers the continuation of the above hostile acts to be unbearable and reserves its legitimate right to self-defence and removal of any threat.

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